

# REPORT (PART II)

ON

## NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

### Week ending Saturday, 17th August 1901.

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## I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

2140. Referring to the agitation conducted by Sir M. Bhownaggree, on behalf of the British Indian residents of South Africa, the *Bengalee* declares that "bare justice demands that the question should be approached in a sympathetic manner, and Imperialism, of which Mr. Chamberlain is perhaps the High Priest, will justly itself by sweeping off the inequalities which the Boer Republics perpetuated in the treatment of Indians in South Africa."

Indians in South Africa.

BENGALÉE,  
9th Aug. 1901.

## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

## (a).—Police.

2141. A correspondent, writing to the *Bengalee*, complains of the indifference with which the police are treating a complaint made by the residents of South Entally regarding a brothel which exists in the *basti* at 5, South Road. The complaint was made to the Commissioner of Police on the 11th of May, and on the 14th June, at 7-30 P.M., the Superintendent of the division came down to enquire, and decided that the place could not be called a brothel, because the women had not been seen outside in broad daylight soliciting the passers-by. No reply has yet been received as to the Commissioner's decision in the case.

A brothel in Entally.

BENGALÉE,  
9th Aug. 1901.

2142. The *East* draws the attention of the authorities to the negligence of the Railway Police at Narainganj, which results in pick-pockets carrying on their trade without any hindrance. The Traffic Superintendent likewise appears to be quite callous in the matter, and takes no notice of the complaints made to him by victims of the light-fingered gentry.

The station-master has reported against the inefficient police staff, but to no purpose, and it is insinuated by many that the police are in league with the pick-pockets.

Pocket-picking at the Narain-  
ganj Railway Station.EAST,  
10th Aug. 1901.

2143. A correspondent of the *Bengalee*, signing himself "An eye-witness," brings to notice the following instance of the insolent behaviour of police constables:—

Insolent behaviour of police  
constables.BENGALÉE,  
10th Aug. 1901.

At 5-30 P.M. last Wednesday, two constables of the Hooghly police travelled up with several Babus from the Howrah station. One of them stretched out his legs beside a Babu and refused to remove them. The other, who was in a neighbouring compartment, joined him and an altercation ensued. On steps being taken to report the men to the station-master, constable No. 1, under the advice of his colleague, tore his coat and pretended to have been beaten.

The writer furnishes the names and addresses of six people who witnessed the occurrence.

2144. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika's* Bhadreswar correspondent appears to still have an idea that the District Superintendent of Police of Hooghly has not made a proper enquiry into the alleged *zulum* by Kabulis.

The Kabuli nuisance.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
13th Aug. 1901.

He complains that though 150 oppressed persons were present to lay their grievances before the enquiring officer, the statements of only a few were recorded, and no corroborative evidence was accepted.

2145. The *Bengalee* wishes to call attention to the frequent occurrence of dacoities at Rohora, a village only 11 miles from Calcutta and three miles from the Barrackpore Cantonment.

Dacoities in Rohora.

BENGALÉE,  
14th Aug. 1901.

"The Barrackpore People's Association brought the matter to the notice of the Magistrate of the 24-Parganas in a memorial in which they requested that the police strength should be increased, and that there should be constant and close supervision over the mill people at Titaghar and Khardah, but we are credibly informed that nothing has yet been done in these respects. Failing to secure the sympathy of the authorities, a number of gentlemen of the village have formed themselves into a corps, and are regularly patrolling



at nights." It is hoped that the Government will take notice of the situation and increase the number of constables. At present there are only two constables for the whole village, which has an area of two square miles.

The fact that of late there have been several cases of dacoity in this part of the Barasat subdivision, and that the police have not been able to trace the offenders in a single case, clearly proves that police reform is urgently needed.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
9th Aug. 1901.

2146. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* quotes extracts from the judgment of the Magistrate who tried the Patna riot case, and complains of the summary manner in which the charges were disposed of. Instead of taking up and

The Patna Muharram riot case.

dealing with each case separately, the Magistrate disposed of the cases in about four or five lines for each! In the judgment the accused are given no explanation of how the Magistrate arrived at his conclusion. It is necessary, says the writer, not only to do justice, but to show that justice has been done.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
10th Aug. 1901.

2147. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* in yet another long article on the Patna Muharram riot, says that of the 12 men convicted, eight were Hindus. It contends that as Hindus

*Ibid.*

would not care if the procession were stopped or the *sipar* broken up by the police, they would not be likely to join in such a riot. The constables were obliged to make arrests, so they found it safer to tackle the gentle Hindu spectator than the spirited Musalman rioter.

The *Patrika* objects to the evidence on which the men were convicted, and is particularly troubled at the conviction of one Raghoo Singh, who proved an *alibi* on the evidence of two "gentlemen" one the son of a Sub-Judge, and the other a Doctor Babu.

NOTE.—The value of the evidence of the son of the Sub-Judge can be gathered from paragraphs 1365 and 1652 of the S. B. abstract. It is understood that the District Superintendent of Police has submitted a report to have this witness prosecuted for perjury.

BENGALÉE,  
11th Aug. 1901.

2148. The *Bengalée* ridicules the principles of justice adopted by the Deputy Magistrate of Magura, who invariably believes the complainant and convicts the accused.

A Daniel come to judgment.

It cites, for example, a case in which one Durga Charan Roy was sentenced for having received stolen property, although the evidence for the prosecution showed that the article had never actually come into the man's possession, but was seen in the possession of his two sons. An appeal to the Judge at Jessore led to the reversal of the Deputy Magistrate's judgment and acquittal of the accused, but who is to indemnify Durga Charan for the ruinous expense and the worry he has had to undergo? The *Bengalée* commends the case for the consideration of the Lieutenant-Governor, who, it is hoped, will remove the Deputy Magistrate to a place where he will be comparatively harmless to peaceful and respectable citizens.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
12th Aug. 1901.

2149. Commenting on the decision of Mr. T. J. Strangman, Acting Chief Presidency Magistrate, Esplanade Police Court, Bombay, who in more than one case sentenced persons accused of theft to be whipped across the

Cruel decisions of a Bombay Magistrate.

shoulders in his presence, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* asks if witnessing the punishment is agreeable to the Magistrate. In choosing the shoulders instead of the buttocks the Magistrate's object, presumably, was the infliction of greater pain. The writer predicts that if Mr. Strangman persists in punishing people in this heartless fashion, he will soon cut a figure.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
12th Aug. 1901.

2150. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* expresses its satisfaction at the Chief Secretary's remark in the Government Resolution on Police Administration in Calcutta and its Suburbs for 1900, relating to the issue of processes

The issue of processes by Magistrates without due enquiry.

without due enquiry. It is hoped that a rule on the subject will be issued by all Local Governments. The result would be the saving of a great deal of misery caused by people laying charges for the sole purpose of harassing their enemies.



2151. Complaining of the frequent miscarriage of justice in Assam, the *Indian Empire* comments on a case in which a European tea-garden manager was charged with attempting to commit rape on a cooly woman. The case was transferred from the file of the Sub-divisional Officer to that of the Deputy Commissioner, as the accused claimed to be tried by a jury, and this resulted in his being discharged for want of evidence.

INDIAN EMPIRE,  
11th Aug. 1901.

The Chief Commissioner has remarked in his report to the Government of India that the case has been inadequately dealt with by the local authorities, and it is hoped that Government will take proper notice of the conduct of the officials in this particular instance.

2152. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* publishes in full the judgment of a case in which the District Judge of Nasik sentenced six natives to 18 months' imprisonment for an attack on three soldiers of the Oxford Light Infantry. The *Patrika* says there are naturally two sides to this case, and the defence is that some sort of an encounter was brought about by two of the soldiers catching hold of a woman named Chandri, the sister of accused No. 3.

AMRITA BAZAR,  
PATRIKA,  
15th Aug. 1901.

The Magistrate believed that one of the soldiers had tried to catch hold of the woman Chandri, but the Judge did not take this into consideration. He actually remarks that the violence of the accused was altogether out of proportion to the alleged provocation, which was not grave or sudden. "These views," says the *Patrika*, "only prove that the Judge, who is a European, is not acquainted with the feelings and customs of the people of this country.....Most Indians would have acted as the accused in the Nasik case did, had their females been insulted in a similar way."

(d)—Education.

2153. The *East* advocates a radical change in the system of education, which has become hopelessly bad under the influence of the University. The present system is so superficial that in an overwhelming majority of cases, it has failed to change the "inner man," and though the students make a display of so-called knowledge, they never show themselves as pioneers in social and moral affairs, as their aspirations are never high and noble. The general result compared with what obtained in pre-University days is very much to be deplored. Men of the old school were found to belong to a self-respecting, efficient, and progressive class, capable of playing a real part not only in the service of the Empire, but also in the service of the country and society they belonged to.

EAST,  
10th Aug. 1901.

2154. The *Behar News* in a long article on Indian education chiefly composed of quotations from English and Indian contemporaries, protests against the proposal to raise the Entrance standard, which it considers is already high enough. It goes without saying that Universities relying on the examination system must necessarily encourage methods of teaching, which are more or less cramming. Education in its moral and intellectual aspects is the key of the future in India, and it is the duty of all interested in the welfare of the country to consider the various systems and methods of education prevailing in civilized countries, so as to engraft them if advisable and practicable, upon the present Indian educational institutions, or to modify the latter according to the altered circumstances of the country, always bearing in mind that no educational arrangement or scheme can be successful, which tends to change the genius or characteristics of a particular nation.

BEHAR NEWS,  
10th Aug. 1901.

The writer could never believe the recent rumours that the Government intended to introduce Bible-reading into the schools, and observes that it would be impossible for Government to interfere with the religious education of Indian boys.

2155. The following is extracted from the *Benqalee* :—

BENGALEE,  
11th Aug. 1901.

We have received the following letter from Faridpur, under date the 6th instant:—On the 5th instant, an unusual scene took place in the Faridpur Zillah School. Babu Mahendra Nath Banerjee, the 5th teacher of the school, assaulted a

A brutal assault by a teacher.



student, aged about 10, with the branch of a tree. The boy swooned away, and the head master and several others came to the scene of occurrence. The head master immediately sent for the Assistant Surgeon and the Jail Doctor, but the assault was so serious that after three hours' incessant labour and application of blisters, &c., the boy recovered his senses.

We are all afraid of sending our boys to the school, as we understand, apart from what he did, that he is in the habit of assaulting the boys in this way.

INDIAN NATION,  
12th Aug. 1901.

2156. The *Indian Nation* publishes with admiring comments an address on education and religion recently delivered by the Lord Bishop of Madras. The *Nation* differs from

the Bishop on one or two points; for instance, "it is not true of our universities that they qualify men for life, for the duties of citizen, any more than the *tols* do. Our colleges, like the *tols*, profess to impart only an intellectual education. Generally speaking, the collegiate education is diffuse, fragmentary, superficial; and education in the *tol* is specialised, deep and thorough."

BENGALIEE,  
15th Aug. 1901.

2157. In August last, says the *Bengalee*, the Syndicate addressed a letter to the examiners directing them to return all papers as soon as the marks were awarded. All

the examiners, with one exception, did so, but the one who did not gave as his only explanation that he had burnt the papers. In burning the papers he committed a clear violation of a rule. One is also curious to know when he burnt the papers. It must have been done very recently, for this was the very Examiner, who on a complaint that one Nolini Behari Ghose had been failed by only three marks, awarded the boy three marks more, and so passed him.

The article concludes:—"One scandal follows another in quick succession. When shall we come to the last of them?"

(e)—*Municipal Administration and Local Self-Government.*

BENGALIEE,  
13th Aug. 1901.

2158. The *Bengalee* protests against the very harsh procedure still resorted to by the Calcutta Municipality of cutting off

A municipal grievance. water-connections for arrears of rates, and proposes that a general rule be passed forbidding it, except under the orders of the Chairman or Vice-Chairman.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
13th Aug. 1901.

2159. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* devotes over a column to comment on an order of the authorities, including in the Deoghur Municipality, the houses built by certain

The country houses of Bengalis at Deoghur. Bengalis who have settled in the neighbourhood for the good of their health. This step, the *Patrika* considers, has been taken by those envious of the beautiful houses of the Bengalis, in order that the municipality may benefit by the taxes. The alleged object of the authorities is to improve the sanitary surroundings of the Babus, but, says the *Patrika*, addressing the authorities:—"If that be so, the Babus who are at least as intelligent as you, are the best judges of their interests. Ask them whether they would have your kind help."

The article concludes with the following threat:—"If they dare to tax the Bengali Babus—Bengali Babus whom disease has made sour and irascible—they will have to render an account for every item of expenditure they incur. It will be the business of the settlers to see that every pice of the tax realized from them is spent for their benefit."

INDIAN MIRROR,  
15th Aug. 1901.

2160. The arrangement sanctioned by Government of Mr. Silk officiating as Chairman during Mr. Greer's absence is pronounced by the *Indian Mirror* to be an outrageous one. It protests against the frequent changes in the Chairmanship, and points out that in the present instance Government appears to have forgotten or overlooked the incident in Mr. Silk's past municipal career, when he was censured by the Commissioners on the 5th December 1895 for certain unsatisfactory information furnished in connection with the pumping power at Palmer's Bridge. His appointment, though temporary, is regarded with a sense of painful misgiving.



(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

2161. The following appears in the *Bengalee* of the 9th instant:—

Appeal for a Railway concession. We have more than once appealed to the Eastern Bengal Railway authorities to make a concession in respect of fares to students travelling by their line. We learn the principle is recognised in the case of students who happen to be the sons of their employes. The employes of the Eastern Bengal State Railway pay half the fare, and their sons, who are students, one-third. This is as it should be, and we submit that the principle should be recognised in the case of students who belong to the general public and are in no way connected with their employes.

BENGALÉE,  
9th Aug. 1901.

2162. The *Bengalee* again takes up the subject of want of proper waterways in the Bengal Central Railway embankment between Dum-Dum junction and Cantonment, and wishes to accord hearty support to the proposal made by Babu Lalit Mohun Ghosal for a Commission to enquire into the matter. It is hoped the Government will not go on waiting for more experience.

BENGALÉE,  
14th Aug. 1901.

(h)—*General.*

2163. "Ahmednagar," says the *Bengalee*, is not as perfect a sanitarium as it is represented to be. An Indian Civil Servant, who knows the place, has written to *Truth*, showing that though the district is not markedly unhealthy, the town and the present cantonments are. The *Bengalee* complains that Lord George Hamilton is not only ignorant of Indian affairs and Indian public opinion, but he will not believe anything that does not reach him through the official channel. It is devoutly hoped that the prisoners of war will soon be placed in a salubrious climate, "with all the comforts to which an English regiment are entitled."

BENGALÉE,  
9th Aug. 1901.

2164. The Bankipore correspondent of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* reports that the judgment of Mr. Forrester in the Excise case brought against Mr. Charrier is giving rise to sensational offshoots.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
10th Aug. 1901.

The first is the proposed prosecution of a newspaper by an official, for defamation in publishing the judgment of the Excise case with remarks prejudicial to his good name. The matter has been referred to the head of the district. Then, again, there is a talk of Mr. Charrier bringing a suit for damages against Mr. Campbell, the Police Inspector. Finally comes Mr. Watling, who is taking legal opinion, and it is said that he will probably move the High Court to have the irrelevant remarks of Mr. Forrester expunged from the judgment.

The correspondent suggests that the lease of the outstill be no longer given to "poor whites." An Indian lessee is expected to be more law-abiding, and as a matter of fact, when Gopi Babu had the lease of the outstill, there were no prosecutions for infringement of the excise law, &c.

2165. *Power and Guardian* believes the High Court bench is deteriorating, owing to the new practice of appointing members of the local Bar to fill up vacancies among Barrister-Judges. Though the Barrister-Judges who were brought from England had no local experience, they never failed to maintain the honour and dignity of the highest tribunals in the land. Though as a rule opposed to the importation of officers when the products of the country can give equal satisfaction, *Power and Guardian* wishes to point out that the young advocates who can be induced to leave the Bar for the Bench do so because they have no prospects of a successful career as advocates. "Hence we only get mediocres and men who have not been chastened and chiselled into the proper shape by those great artists—age and experience."

POWER AND GUARDIAN,  
11th Aug. 1901.

2166. The *Indian Nation* wishes to congratulate His Honour and the town on the decision to prohibit the employment of barmaids in Calcutta. The restraint is certainly not to be regarded as a fad of the Purists, but is, for practical and no mere sentimental reasons, a necessity.

INDIAN NATION,  
13th Aug. 1901.



AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
12th Aug. 1901.

2167. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writing on the subject of the British Indian Association's election of a representative in the Bengal Legislative Council, which has been causing great excitement among Calcutta and mufassal zamindars, enquires why the Government failed to publish the necessary notification in the Gazette, and how it was that Mr. Buckland's attention was drawn to the defect only 24 hours before the election meeting. Then if the defect was discovered on Friday, the urgent issue of an extra Gazette containing the notification, would have removed all obstacles. The postponement of the meeting caused an amount of unnecessary trouble and expense to several of the mufassal candidates and their supporters, and but for Mr. Buckland's action Maharaja Monindra Chandra Nandy, a mufassal candidate, would, according to several accounts, have been elected on Saturday by an overwhelming majority, a result which would have reconciled the two parties.

HINDOO PATRIOT,  
14th Aug. 1901.

2168. Referring to this subject, the *Hindoo Patriot* complains of the disappointment caused by the postponement of the meeting. It hopes that the Calcutta and mufassal zamindars will effect a reconciliation in the time that remains, so that the election may be a satisfactory one.

BENGALIEE,  
14th Aug. 1901.

2169. The *Bengalee* is curious to know why the meeting of the British Indian Association to nominate a member to the Legislative Council, which was postponed to enable the Government "to cure a legal defect which it had overlooked, should have been postponed *sine die* and not to a fixed date."

Had it been postponed for a week the mufassal zamindars might have stayed in Calcutta for the week and been spared the trouble and expense of a second journey. It was the duty of Government to have interested itself in the speedy termination of the present painful controversy and to have fixed an early date. "This was not done, and the impression has gone forth that Government has, unconsciously no doubt, made itself a tool in the hands of interested parties. The concession of the Government to the zamindars is barely appreciated. Its bungling in connection with the matter is the subject of universal comment, and everybody mutters to himself, "with what little wisdom the world is governed."

BENGALIEE,  
15th Aug. 1901.

2170. The proceedings of the Government in bestowing the franchise upon the British Indian Association represents, says the *Bengalee*, an uninterrupted course of blundering, as described below:—

1stly.—It would have been far more in accordance with common sense and precedence to have drawn up a list of qualified voters from among the payers of the road-cess.

2ndly.—In accordance with the Regulations of the Government of India, and the practice of the Government of Bengal, two months are given within which public bodies are required to submit their nominations. In the case of the British Indian Association the Government of Bengal extended the period by one month.

3rdly.—The omission to notify in the *Calcutta Gazette* the fact that the Association had been invited to nominate a member.

This persistent blundering is due, says the writer, to the constant changes in the *personnel* of the Chief Secretary. They are certainly not calculated to conduce to the efficiency of that high office. Within the last eighteen months there have been three Chief Secretaries in Bengal,—all able and distinguished men. But if the Chief Secretaryship is to be the halting-stage for higher offices—to be vacated as soon as a higher opening is in view—its efficiency is bound to suffer.

BENGALIEE,  
10th Aug. 1901.

2171. In publishing the telegrams that passed between Lord Curzon and Lord George Hamilton regarding the Cooper's Hill Engineers, the *Bengalee* remarks that the latter is entitled to offer what explanation he pleases, but



the fact remains that a public reprimand has been administered to the Indian Government, which has excited surprise and astonishment in India. No explanation is offered, nor is any admissible, as to why the Secretary of State caused the censure to be published.

2172. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* has a leading article on the correspondence between Lord George Hamilton and the India Government on the subject of the memorial from the Cooper's Hill Engineers. It is inclined to think that the reply to Lord Curzon's protest is even more curt than the original censure.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
13th Aug. 1901.

"Lord George Hamilton," says the *Patrika*, "is exercising irresistible powers for years more than any official to our knowledge has been known to do . . . . Naturally he has become a little autocratic in his tone."

The *Patrika* thinks, however, that the proposals made by the Government were absurd, and that Lord George Hamilton did quite right in rejecting them.

2173. *Power and Guardian* refuses to credit the rumour that the Bengal Government have suggested the amalgamation of the two Landholders' Associations of Bankipur and Bhagalpur. The suggestion aims at the extinction of the Bhagalpur Association and of public life among the landholders of that district, and all for the privilege of returning a member to Council in six or eight years. It cannot be right or anything like just, for the Government to make such a suggestion.

POWER AND GUAR-  
DIAN,  
11th Aug. 1901.

2174. The *Bengalee* says that the Government of Bengal has definitely recorded its opinion against the separation of judicial and executive functions, but proposes to issue orders to District Magistrates directing them not to interfere with Subordinate Magistrates during the trial of cases. The Government thinks that the separation would add to the power of the National Congress or the Vakil Raj. "This sentiment is not new, but it should not have found a place in an official document." It is remarked that among the persons consulted was Mr. Monro, I.C.S., retired, who was always an officer with strong executive instincts, and who knows nothing of Modern India, having retired in 1883. The *Bengalee* considers it unlikely that the Local Government would ever agree to a reform that affected them, and considers they should not be consulted on the subject. If His Excellency is convinced in his own mind that the separation is necessary, he should carry it out, subject to such details as the Local Governments may suggest. "The Indian public look to him and not to the Local Governments for this great reform."

BENGALÉE,  
13th Aug. 1901.

2175. In continuation of its first article on the subject, the *Bengalee* remarks that the members of the Government who have passed the whole of their lives under a system which combines the two functions, cannot possibly be expected to see its defects.... Their feelings must colour their judgment. Native lawyers and the Indian National Congress are the *bête noire* of an extreme section of our Anglo-Indian fellow subjects. But the Government at any rate ought to be above such feeling.... Native lawyers are said to be narrow and technical and naturally opposed to the executive, and the separation of judicial and executive functions would confer enormous powers on them. The Indian National Congress is held by the Government to be in no way representative of the people. The *Bengalee* is amazed at the attitude of Government. The strongest opponents of the Congress admit that it is representative of the educated community. It is hoped His Excellency will not accept the opinion of the Government, based on such unsound views.

BENGALÉE,  
14th Aug. 1901.

2176. The *Hindu Patriot* is greatly disappointed with the opinion expressed by the Government of Bengal regarding the separation of the judicial and executive functions, particularly as the representation had received the support of eminent Anglo-Indian officials.

HINDOO PATRIOT,  
15th Aug. 1901.

Competent and distinguished men in India and England have pointed out the necessity of this change in the administration of criminal justice, and the publication of the reasons that have induced the Government to hold such an unfavourable opinion is anxiously awaited.



INDIAN EMPIRE,  
24th Aug. 1901.

2177. The *Indian Empire* is glad to find that the helpless condition of India has been evoking sympathy in the British Press, for it is the British elector who is the final arbiter of India's wrongs.

It quotes passages from articles in the London *Daily News* and *Morning Post*, and emphasises the statement that canals are more important than railways, and that moral and material progress depends far more on the supply of water where it is wanted, than on the opening up of the country to locomotives.

The drain on the wealth and resources of India is in itself sufficient to ruin the country, and by the adoption of the remedy of stanching the drain and substituting native rule under light English supervision, India can be not only saved, but made contented and happy.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
14th Aug. 1901.

2178. The Midnapore correspondent of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* says that the work of the local Caste Precedence Committee has not been completed and its report, which was

due on the 15th July, has not been submitted as yet. He describes the *Baidyas*, the *Kayasthas*, the *Kasthas*, the so-called *Madhya Sreni Kayasthas*, the *Sudgopes*, the *Kaibartas*, and a host of other orders, as being verily in a tug-of-war. "The contest for supremacy rages loud and long from noon to dewy eve till, tired of crying hoarse over the matter, the combatants lay down their forensic weapons and console themselves with the thought that each caste is great in its own sphere. Need we say that the Government has really thrown an apple of discord amongst us? The constitution of the Caste Precedence Committees is by no means a happy one, and there is every reason to fear that the decisions arrived at by Committees may be coloured by the prejudices of the members themselves, and thus accentuate that very hatred and jealousy which are eating into the vitals of Hindu society."

BENGALIEE,  
15th Aug. 1901.

2179. The *Bengalee* strongly protests against the dismemberment of the Bankura district as unnecessary and uncalled for.

The dismemberment of Bankura. If it is necessary for the convenience of the coal trade to form a coal district, a separate district should be formed, including the entire coal area, but the Bankura district should be maintained.

BENGALIEE,  
15th Aug. 1901.

2180. The *Bengalee* quotes from an article in *Weekly Notes*, questioning the legality of conferring the franchise on the British

An important point of law. Indian Association, which is not exclusively a body of landholders. Under the regulations of Government, the franchise can be conferred only on a body composed exclusively of landholders. A Council constituted with a member returned by a body not competent to receive the franchise may have its proceedings challenged in a Court of law as null and void.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
15th Aug. 1901.

2181. In the course of an article mainly touching the evidence given in the Hoff case by the Editor of the *Hitabadi*, "who is admittedly a friend of Babu Surendranath and who is known in every part of the country as not only the righthand man, but almost a shadow of the renowned patriot," the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* again draws attention to the remark passed by the Local Government on the Calcutta Police Administration Report regarding the issue of process without due enquiry.

It begs Sir John Woodburn, or for that matter His Excellency the Viceroy, to issue a circular directing Magistrates not to issue process without due enquiry.

#### IV.—NATIVE STATES.

POWER AND GUAR-  
DIAN,  
10th Aug. 1901.

2182. The incident connected with the arrest, detention and expulsion of Mr. J. N. Roy, the legal adviser of the Bara Thakur of Tippera, has, says *Power and Guardian*, created

The arrest of Mr. J. N. Roy. a panic among the officers and followers of the Bara Thakur at Agartola. The writer enters into the details of the Barrister's arrest, and goes on to hope that this high-handed behaviour of His Highness the Maharajah of Hill Tippera will be noticed by Government. He urges a most sifting enquiry into the matter, as the overlooking of so serious an offence may encourage the Prince



to confine the Bara Thakur, his brother, in the same unwarrantable fashion. He also suggests that a Political Agent be appointed at the cost of the State at Agartola, to see that the course of justice is not interfered with, at least while the suit for the succession is pending.

#### V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

2183. The following letter to the Editor of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* appears in that paper :—

A *Jogee* with wonderful powers.

SIR,—Babu Umesh Chunder Chatterjee, a Vakil who practised in the local Courts, became a disciple of Sree Sree Toylungo Swami in 1886, and since then he has been practising *Joga* and he has been able to develop wonderful powers. We know it from experience that he can command rains and winds and other natural elements. On several occasions during the last four or five years, we suffered too much from want of rains, and, consequently, from severe heat; we did implore him (Babu Umesh Chunder Chatterjee) to remove our grievances and he was kind enough to do so. As the people of the Lower Provinces have been suffering this year from drought, I would suggest that a deputation from the several adjoining districts might wait upon the said *Jogee* and induce him to produce rain to benefit the agriculture of the Provinces.

JOGENDRO NATH CHATTERJEE.

Bara Bazar, Chinsura.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
10th Aug. 1901.

2184. The *Bengalee* has received from Uluberia a communication in which the Secretary of the Uluberia Distress Association complains of the delay in making *tuccavi* advances.

Distress in Uluberia.

Long before the present cultivation season, a notice of the intention of Government to make *tuccavi* advances was issued to the people, and in response about 500 applications were made. Up to now not a single pice has been advanced to anybody, and the poor cultivators have at last been driven to seek help from the money-lenders. The Government has by its dilatoriness done the people a great wrong, and should come to their rescue at once. The situation is serious and the remedy should be prompt.

BENGALUR,  
15th Aug. 1901.

#### VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

2185. The *Bengalee* and the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* have again quarrelled, this time owing to the *Bengalee* having published in its columns a statement made by Pundit Kali

The *Bengalee* and the *Patrika*.

Prasanna Kabyabisarad, the Editor of the *Hitavadi*, in his evidence in the defamation case brought against the *Patrika* by Mr. Hoff of Cawnpore. Pundit Kali Prasanna has stated in evidence that he left the staff of the *Patrika* because Babu Moti Lal Ghose, its Editor, was a blackmailer, and the *Patrika* was a scurrilous paper.

The *Patrika* wishes to hold Babu Surendranath Banerjee responsible, apparently not only for having the evidence quoted in the *Bengalee*, but also to some extent for the statement itself, and declares that Babu Surendranath Banerjee and Pundit Kali Prasanna are intimate friends and that the *Hitavadi* and the *Bengalee* are published from the same place.\* In the issue of the 8th the Editor of the *Bengalee* makes an apology, but the *Patrika* is not satisfied, and on the 9th remarks :—"The *Bengalee* could not resist the sweet pleasure of stabbing a helpless gentleman, for whom its love is unbounded, by publishing a telegram which purported to be the evidence of the chief lieutenant of the premier patriot of India."

2186. The following telegram from the *Amrita Bazar Patrika's* Dinajpur correspondent is published in that paper :—

A suit for damages.

Babu Lalit Chandra Sen, pleader, has to-day filed in the Sub-Judge's Court a suit for the recovery from Babu Jnanendra Nath Lahiri, Subdivisional Officer of Thakurgaon, Rs. 6,000 as damages for defaming him. It has created great sensation.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
7th, 8th and 9th  
Aug. 1901.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA  
10th Aug. 1901.

\* The *Bengalee* and the *Hitavadi* are published from the same building in Collutollah Street. Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee is paid Editor of the *Bengalee*, and is believed to also have a strong voice in controlling the policy and doings of the more audacious and unscrupulous vernacular paper *Hitavadi*.



BENGALIEE,  
15th Aug. 1901.

2187. The *Bengalee* of the 15th makes the following announcement :—

A new Zamindars' Association. We understand that in consequence of recent events a new Zamindars' Association, under the name of the Bengal Landholders' Association, will be inaugurated on Saturday next, the 17th instant. A house has been taken for it and has already been furnished. We learn that a very large sum of money has been subscribed for the Association. A club will form an adjunct to the Association.

BENGALIEE,  
15th Aug. 1901.

2188. In its third article under this heading, the *Bengalee* observes that the English Conquest of India was achieved by the conquered for the conquerors, neither conqueror nor conquered knowing at the time that it was a conquest.

Japan adopted European civilization as a safeguard against European aggression, but, owing to the way in which the imperial diadem of India was, by the hand of Providence, transferred to the head of the King of England, India was never, like Japan, sensible of a threatening attitude of the European Powers towards her.

Besides, at the time, India had no compact nationality. It is only lately that the Indians have come to realize, thanks to the efforts of the Congress, that the growth of the idea of nationality is essential to their Political salvation. Attempts for India to imitate Japan are bound to prove failures, because the first condition to their success is the growth among Indians of a wide-spread nationality.

POWER AND GUAR-  
DIAN,  
8th August 1901.

2189. *Power and Guardian* says the conferring of the Order of the Bath on Maharaja Sir Pratap Singh, reminds Indians of the halcyon days when the Great Mogul raised Man Singh to the highest Military office of the realm. It opens to the longing gaze of the dusky subjects of His Majesty a wide vista of light and glory. This and the formation of the Imperial Cadet Corps are happy signs of the dawning of an era of trust and confidence.

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENERAL  
OF POLICE, L. P.,  
WRITERS' BUILDINGS,  
The 17th August 1901.

F. C. DALY,  
Asst. to Insp.-General of Police, L. P.